

Title I Distinguished Schools Recognition Program

BACKGROUND INFO

The National Title I Distinguished Schools Program is a project of the National Association of State Title I Directors (NASTID). It provides an opportunity for Title I schools from every state to be publicly recognized for their positive educational achievements. The purpose of the Title I Distinguished Schools Recognition Program is to identify schools that are:

- (1) ensuring that all children have access to effective instructional strategies and challenging academic content; and,
- (2) demonstrating success in ensuring that all children, particularly educationally deprived children, make significant progress towards learning that content.

CRITERIA:

Each state may nominate two schools for national recognition.

- Selected schools must have a poverty rate of at least 35 percent;
- One school may be selected to represent Category 1: school that has exceeded its adequate yearly progress (AYP) for two or more consecutive years; and
- One school may be selected to represent Category 2: school that has significantly closed the achievement gap among the No Child Left Behind student subgroups.

A nominated school may be a schoolwide program or a targeted assistance school.

Additional information about this program is available at <http://www.titlei.org/dsp.html>.

SELECTION PROCESS:

The Title I Distinguished Schools Recognition Program for 2008-2009 will use the following procedures to determine the nominated schools:

The staff of the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education Office will determine the eligible schools for both programs by using screening criteria (test scores, AYP, poverty data, recognition history, etc.) and approach eligible schools for site visits.

The planned site visits by OSSE staff and/or consultants will occur during October and early November. Finalists will be determined and presented to the State Superintendent for approval. The Title I Distinguished Schools will then complete required paperwork that will be forwarded to the national level.

National Title I Distinguished Schools are recognized at the annual NASTID Conference. The OSSE will send two staff persons from each school to the annual conference in San Antonio, TX in February 2009 to receive the award. For additional information please contact the Office of School Improvement at (202) 535-1894.